[8th February 1924

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" Will the hon. the Minister be good enough to state the reasons for his declining to answer these pertinent questions ? "

The hon. the Raja of Panagal :—" The answer to this follows from the answer I have given before."

Travelling allowance drawn by Presidents of certain District Boards.

311 Q.—Mr. S. Satyamurti : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state the amount of travelling allowances drawn by the Presidents of the District Boards of Chingleput, South Arcot, North Arcot, Tinnevelly, Kistna and Gōdāvari during the months of August, September and October 1923 ?

A.—The Government have no information.

The Salem District Board.

312 Q.—Mr. S. Satyamurti : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Mr. Foulkes was renominated as President of the District Board, Salem, a few days before his departure to England ;

(*b*) whether the Minister was aware of Mr. Foulkes' impending departure when he passed the order nominating him ;

(*c*) whether Mr. Foulkes is expected to be absent from India for more than six months ; and

(*d*) whether the Vice-President of the District Board, Salem, has arranged to hold meetings of the Board once in two months, instead of once in a month ?

A.—(*a*) & (*c*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative.

(*d*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to rule 1 of Schedule II to the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, as amended by notification No. 657 published in Part I-A of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 19th September 1922.

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" May I know the reasons why, when the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government knew that Mr. Foulkes was going out of India, he appointed him as President of the Salem District Board without ascertaining from him as to how long he will absent from India, especially when he was the head of an executive office ? "

The hon. the Raja of Panagal :—" The answer, as stated, is in the negative. That shows that I did not know."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" The hon. the Minister does not seem to follow my question. May I suggest that he studies the questions and answers a little more carefully ? "

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro :—" On a point of order, Sir, it is not open to the hon. Member to ask the hon. the Minister as to why he did not do this or do that. I think there must be a certain amount of discipline in the House and hon. Members should observe the decorum that is necessary for the dignity of the House."